



# Virginia Rent Relief Program

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Virginia Housing Commission

July 27, 2021

# Virginia Rent Relief Program – The Basics

- The Virginia Rent Relief Program (RRP) is designed to support and ensure housing stability across the Commonwealth during the coronavirus pandemic and its economic impact
- This program has two doors of entry, one for landlords and one for tenants
- The same information is required of both parties, regardless of where the RRP application is initiated
- RRP is utilizing Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) funds - \$525 Million
- RRP is offered to tenants and landlords statewide, with two exceptions:
  - Chesterfield and Fairfax Counties have elected to administer rent relief programs at the local level as allowed by Treasury's Emergency Rental Assistance program
  - Applicants are referred to these local programs for assistance and contact information for those programs is provided on all RRP websites

# Two Doors, One Program

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- Tenants can apply for rent relief through the RRP Support Center online or by telephone
  - Online: [applications.deval.us](https://applications.deval.us)
  - Telephone: 703-962-1884
- Landlords can apply for rent relief on behalf of tenants through Virginia Housing's online portal:
  - [www.VirginiaHousing.com/RentRelief](https://www.VirginiaHousing.com/RentRelief)

# RRP Tenant Eligibility

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Three core eligibility requirements of the program:

1. Household's current gross income must be at or below 80% of Area Median Income (AMI)
2. Household's rent cannot exceed 150% of Fair Market Rent (FMR)
3. Demonstrated inability (self-certification) to make rent payments due to COVID-19

# Required Documentation

1. Rental Agreement (valid lease or alternative lease documentation) which must include:
  - Tenant and Landlord's full names
  - Monthly rent amount
  - What is included in the monthly rent (e.g., utilities, Internet, etc.)
  - Term of the lease (i.e., what month and year does the agreement begin and end)
2. Tenant/Landlord Ledger
3. Tenant Income Documentation
4. Landlord's Virginia W-9
5. RRP Landlord/Tenant Agreement

# Changes & Clarifications to RRP Guidelines

- Trusted third parties can assist tenants and landlords with completing their applications and receive updates on the application status
- ERA dollars can be used to pay three months prospective rent for eligible tenants
- Landlords and tenants can receive rent relief for no more than 15 months total, with reverification every three months
- Tenants **do not** need to be in arrears in order to receive assistance
- Individuals who receive Unemployment Insurance benefits do not need to attest to a COVID related negative financial impact
  - Total household gross monthly income still cannot exceed 80% AMI
  - Monthly rent must still be at or below 150% of FMR

# Other Important RRP Updates & Reminders

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- Households of three or less who access TANF, WIC, SNAP or LIHEAP do not need to provide income documentation
- Households of three or less living in one of 500 “Fact Specific Proxy” zip codes do not need to provide income documentation.
- Households receiving a housing subsidy are eligible for RRP assistance

# RRP Results as of July 14, 2021

## PROGRAM SUMMARY

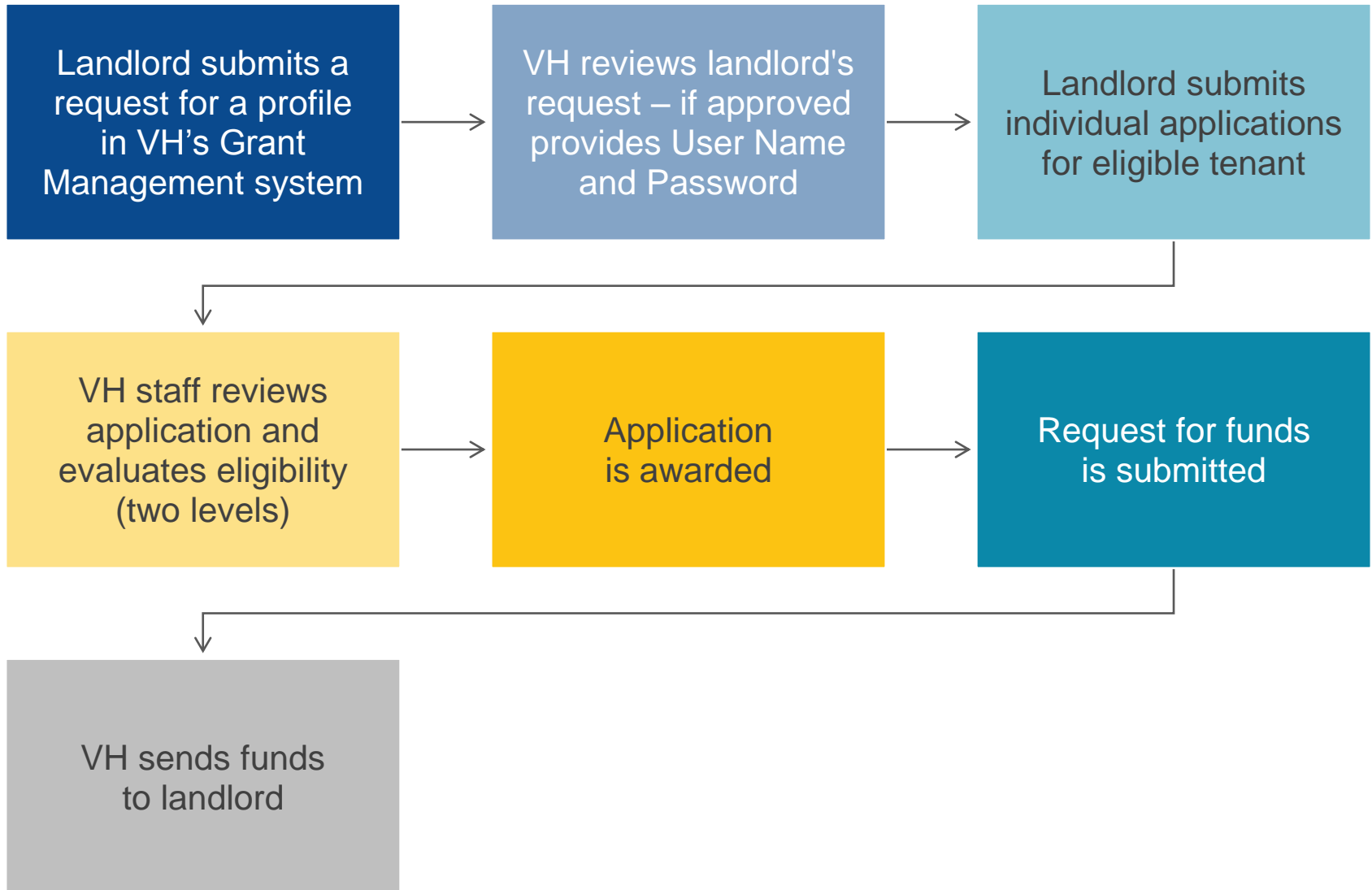
Total Unique Households Approved Since July 2020	48,514
Total Amount Disbursed Since July 2020	\$311.8 Million
Average Rent Relief Payment	\$6,167

# Useful RRP Links

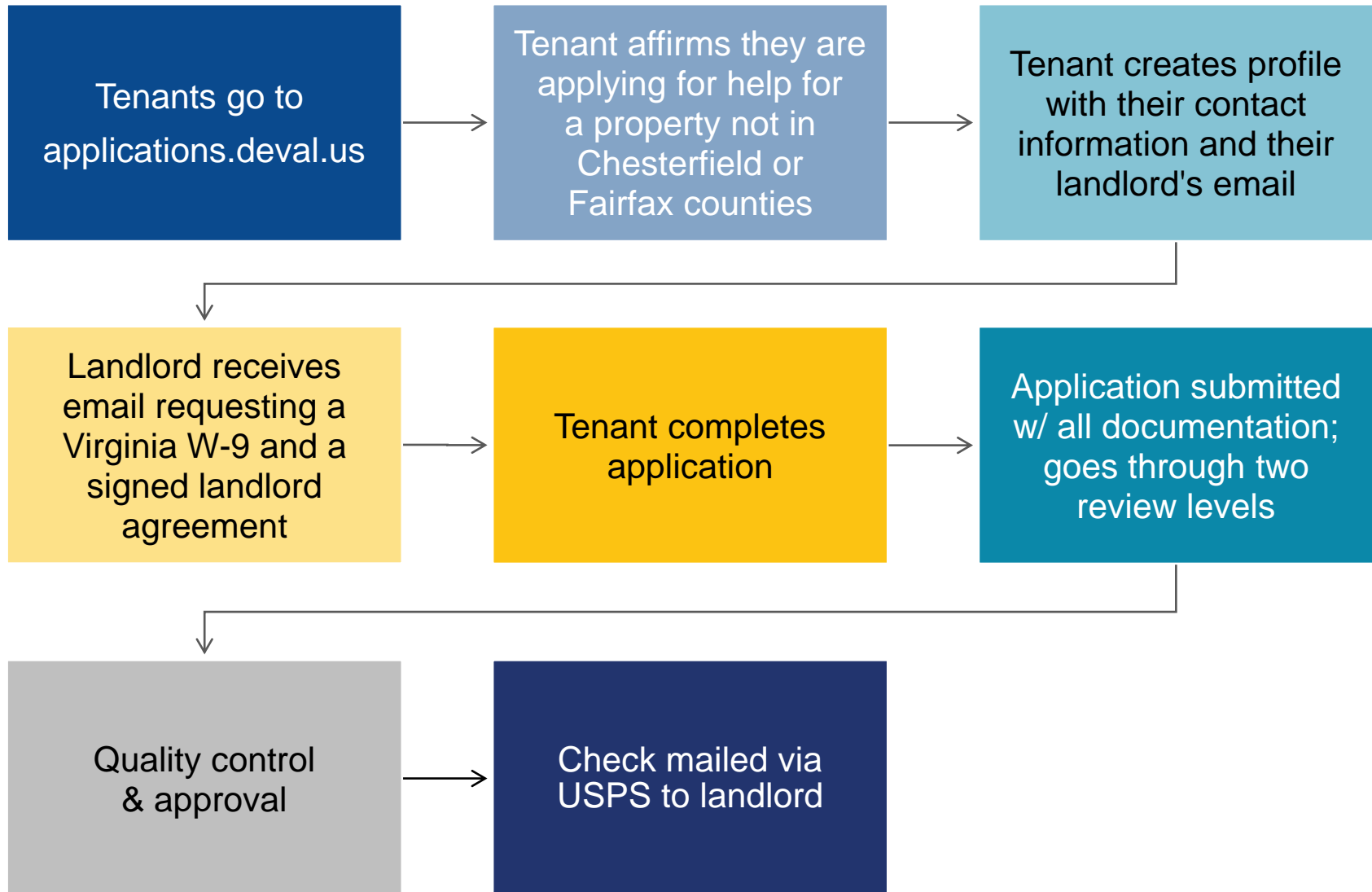
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- FAQs for Tenants: <https://dhcd.virginia.gov/rrp-tenant-faqs>
- FAQs for Landlords: <https://dhcd.virginia.gov/rrp-landlord-faqs>
- RRP Eligibility Self-Assessment: [www.dhcd.virginia.gov/eligibility](http://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/eligibility)

# Landlord Application Process: How it Works



# Tenant Application Process: How it Works



# Outreach and Engagement Grant – Launched July 15

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- Goal is to strategically promote RRP statewide within historically economically disadvantaged communities and assist households and landlords who have limited access to internet, accessibility or language barriers.
- DHCD awarded \$3.5 million to Housing Opportunities Made Equal (HOME)
  - Sub-grantees: Commonwealth Catholic Charities; Southside Community Development & Housing Corporation; and Legal Services Corporation of Virginia's (LSCV) 10 Regional Offices

# Additional Eviction Prevention Resources

- 2020 Special Session of General Assembly appropriated \$3.3 Million and 2021 Regular Session of General Assembly appropriated \$3.3 Million

## Virginia Eviction Reduction Pilot (VERP) goals are to:

- Aid localities and nonprofits to better understand the eviction prevention needs in their communities
- Build organizational capacity to mitigate evictions
- Prepare Grantees for a future VERP Implementation Grant applications
- VERP currently operates in the following areas:
  - City of Richmond – administered by Housing Opportunities Made Equal (HOME)
  - Hampton, Newport News, James City County, Gloucester, Mathews, Poquoson, Williamsburg and New Kent – administered by the United Way of the Virginia Peninsula
  - City of Norfolk – administered by the City of Norfolk
  - Lee County, Wise county, Scott County and City of Norton – administered by Family Crisis Support Services

# Contact Information

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**General RRP Inquiries:**

[rrp@dhcd.virginia.gov](mailto:rrp@dhcd.virginia.gov)

**Virginia Housing Inquiries:**

[RentRelief@VirginiaHousing.com](mailto:RentRelief@VirginiaHousing.com)

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Questions?